



The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
January 2018 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 27, Issue 1



Come to TechFest January 20!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# Message from the President

Happy New Year! I hope Santa was good to you and you found a new toy under the tree or on the bench.

Did you make a New Year's resolution? I don't know about you, but I still have a few left over from 2017 that didn't get done. But I won't let that stop me from re-resolving.

Resolved – I will check into the Monday night GARS Want Swap Sell net more often.

Resolved – I will get the 80/40 meter dipole back into the air.

Resolved – I'll put in the time and effort to work Bouvet and Baker Howland and get that Honor Roll plaque. Speaking of Bouvet, if you haven't read the tips on operating FT8, go to their web site and read what they say on their band plan page. Both groups would still appreciate your donation.

Resolved – I'll practice with that RUFZ code practice program and bring my speed and accuracy up. Mac, NN4K says accuracy is more important than speed!

Resolved – In the future, I won't wait until the day Bill needs this report to start writing it! [I'm going to hold you to that resolution... - Ed]

Well, that's more resolving than I'll probably get done!

Are you going to HamCation? That's the official name of the Orlando, Florida Hamfest. I've been going for several years and always enjoy it. It is second in size to Dayton and the weather is generally a pleasant change from Atlanta. This year it's February 9, 10, and 11 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. The setup is much like our own Stone Mountain – a main building with the large commercial vendors, a second building with smaller commercial vendors, and a flea market building. Of course, there are acres and acres of tail 'gators'. Check out the Florida Contest Group dinner or go to Charlie's and get a steak. Rooms sell out quickly, so if you plan to go, make reservations now. See you there!

TechFest is just around the corner. TechFest is a free event showcasing the technical aspects of ham radio. Admission is free as is the chili and hot dog lunch.



“[www.GARS.org](http://www.GARS.org) is the place to go to find out about Winter Field Day activities (last weekend in January) and to sign up for the Dog Show (first weekend in February).”

Check out [www.techfest.info](http://www.techfest.info) for details on Forums and to order your raffle prize tickets.

[www.GARS.org](http://www.GARS.org) is the place to go to find out about Winter Field Day activities (last weekend in January) and to sign up for the Dog Show (first weekend in February).

Do you have 220 MHz capability? Check out the W4GR repeater on 224.580.

Ever wonder what you could do to make SSB sound more lifelike? Wonder what application an audio mixer or equalizer could have in your shack? Come to the January 9<sup>th</sup> GARS meeting where our own Rick Cobb will explain the uses of

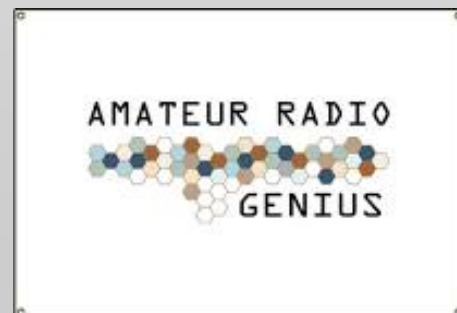
these little boxes and how they can make you and the other guy sound better. You don't need to be a member, everyone is welcome. EAA 690 Hangar. Doors open at 6:30 and meeting starts at 7.

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, at our hands on workshop, I will do a short dog and pony show about Log Book of The World. Then we will tackle getting everyone set up with TQSL and address other ham related problems or questions you have. Different day but same time and place as the regular GARS meetings.

73, *Mike Weathers*, ND4V

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]



# GARS January Meeting and Workshop

## Audio in the Shack

by Rick Cobb, N4XYY  
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 7:00 pm

## International Grid Chase / Logbook of the World

by Mike Weathers, ND4V  
Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:00 pm

*GARS Officer Nominations are open at the January and February meetings;  
Elections are at the February meeting*

**Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1**  
**690 Airport Road**  
**Lawrenceville, GA 30045**  
[Directions to EAA Hangar](#)

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### GARS Communications

2 Meter Repeaters  
147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5  
147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2

1.25 Meter Repeater  
224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0,  
1.6 MHz Offset

70 Cm Repeaters  
444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5  
442.100(+) MHz Tone 100  
442.325(+) MHz Tone 100

6 Meter Repeater  
53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone  
(Offline for Maintenance)

**Other Resources:**  
APRS  
144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

D-Star  
WD4STR  
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)  
440.550 + (5 MHz)

**Don't forget  
to support our  
advertisers at the  
back of the  
GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>  
Newsletter Editor: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603





# Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

## WR1TR - Bill Hawkins

When you click on the link below you will find this picture.

<http://qrz.com/lookup/WR1TR>

Read the notes and get to know him better. You'll be glad you did.

Here is an excerpt from the page:

Back in the mid 70's I noticed a house down the street that had an antenna tower. I was 12 and fearless so I knocked on the door and introduced myself. The Gentleman was Ben Ehrlich. He taught me a lot about ham radio. Unfortunately, as a kid, I didn't have the funds to get into the hobby.

Now it's 2015 and a buddy shows up with some little Chinese radios that he wants to use for emergency comms. Great, I tell him, "but, you need a ham license." Next thing you know I'm taking the Technician and General tests in the same day and a few months later the Extra. I love this hobby and the people that share it with me. Can't wait to meet you on the air

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!



## News, Press Releases, & General Interest

The 69th annual [International DX Convention](#) in Visalia, California, takes place April 20-22 at the [Visalia Convention Center](#). The Southern California DX Club ([SCDXC](#)) sponsors the 2018 event.

Online convention registration opens on January 15 at 1700 UTC. The Saturday banquet program will be on the 3Y0Z DXpedition to Bouvet Island. Convention co-chairs are Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, and Kris Jacob, KC6TOD. [E-mail](#) for more information.



The International DX Convention has been proudly sponsored alternately by the [Southern California DX Club](#) & [Northern California DX Club](#) for the past 65 years.



Sources: <http://www.arrl.org/news/registration-for-international-dx-convention-in-visalia-opens-on-january-15>,  
<http://www.dxconvention.org>



# Upcoming GARS Events for 2018



TechFest is an ARRL-sanctioned **Hamfest** and a **show-and-tell** of the various facets of *amateur radio* and **Chili Cook-off!**

*It's all free, no entry fee and a free lunch!*

**TechFest will be held JANUARY 20, 2018** at:  
Gwinnett Medical Center's Resource Center,  
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120), Lawrenceville, GA 30046



Door prize drawings are held throughout the day. You must be present to win.

Each year, we raffle off a large prize. You don't have to be present to win this raffle. Grand Prize for this year's raffle is a Yaesu FT-991A! To purchase raffle tickets in advance, go to <http://adatab.duckdns.org/tickets.cfm>



Doors open at 9:00 AM, Prize Raffle and last Door Prize drawing around 1:30 PM.  
We will hold VE Testing Sessions starting at 9:00 AM.

For more info, visit [www.techfest.info](http://www.techfest.info).

If you wish to volunteer, sign up by clicking on the link in the "TechFest Volunteers" section at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org)

## Hello GARS and ARES,

I hope everyone is keeping warm. Our Dog Show Fundraiser is coming up on February 1 - 4, 2018.

Why do we need to raise funds? To keep the repeaters going and to maintain the meeting locations and donations to events. Instead of asking members for money all the time, we do this fund raiser twice a year. It brings in enough with dues to cover most of the expenses for the TechFest, Field Day, JOTA, and maybe some other events.

Even with a safety net in the treasury, we need to keep adding to it. If we have an event that requires a tower climb and hardware on a public tower, it could be close to 10,000.00 dollars.

ARES uses the funds to outfit the trailer and help with expenses at events.

This is a major source for their funding.

ARES is a service organization and has no dues.

There are 2 shifts everyday. We need 10 people every shift everyday minimum.

Please consider working at least 1 shift or more when you can.

The Cherokee Rose Cluster dog show makes a donation to both organizations for our presence onsite.

If you wish to volunteer, sign up by clicking on the link in the "Fundraiser Volunteers" section at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org)



Thank You and 73,  
*David*, KA4KKF  
Dog Show Fundraiser





# Upcoming GARS Events for 2018 (cont'd)

## Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day is a 24 hour event starting Saturday, January 27th, From 1400 EST (1900 UTC) at the EAA Hangar.

Disasters are unpredictable by nature and can strike when you least expect them. The goal of the Winter Field Day exercise is to help enhance your skills and ready you for all the environmental conditions found during the spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event and this is what local and state authorities are expecting when they reach out to the emergency service groups that offer their services.

If you are serious about emergency communications as we are; we welcome you to join us for this yearly event. We are sure that you will find this event a pleasant change and challenge to that of a normal summer time field day.

### 2017 Results

- ♦ **34** People signed into the GARS Sheet (We know that there were more attending!)
- ♦ **19** People signed into the ARES Sheet
- ♦ **456** contacts made: 76 CW, 61 Digital, 319 Phone
- ♦ **13988** total Points claimed vs. 7960 in 2016
- ♦ **58** US Sections and 8 Canadian Sections contacted (see map)
- ♦ **W4GR** place **3<sup>rd</sup>** in the Indoor station category. The 2017 and 2018 rules were changed to categorize all Indoor stations equally no matter how many stations were operating.



### 2018 Plans

GARS and Gwinnett ARES are teaming up at the EAA 690 hangar (the usual meeting location for GARS). We will open the gates at 9:30AM when we will begin setting up the antennas, power, and rigs. Several of us are meeting for breakfast at the Golden Corral on Riverside Drive in Lawrenceville (the usual GARS Saturday morning breakfast spot) at 7:30am. All are

welcome to join us for breakfast and/or at the EAA690 hangar for this excellent Winter **indoor** operating event. We will be setting up 4 HF stations – 2 PHONE, 1 CW and 1 DIGITAL. We are planning to participate for the full 24 hours and can use your support and your company.

GARS will operate as W4GR.  
Our onsite frequency will be 146.505 simplex. We will also monitor the GARS 147.075 repeater.

**GWINETT ARES MEMBERS:**  
This will be a Gwinnett ARES qualifying deployable event.

We welcome visitors, but would like to know ahead of time if you plan to show up so that we can make sure we have enough food. Lunch and supper will be available on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday. Who knows, there might even be some snacks available.

If you want to learn how to operate in contest-like conditions, or if you have a Technician license and want to operate HF, or simply if you want to ask questions from other hams, come join us! If you have any questions about this event, or would like to volunteer, please email Mitch ([N0DIM@arrl.net](mailto:N0DIM@arrl.net)) or Dave ([w4dtr@arrl.net](mailto:w4dtr@arrl.net)).

73, *Mitch* N0DIM



# Beginner's Corner

## Happy New Year 2018

With the Year 2018 around the corner, many people make resolutions to try to better themselves. We ham radio operators may be called upon to become emergency communicators. Gaining more knowledge and experience is a good thing for us to do. The author, after pondering some ideas on improving his emergency communication skills, has come up with a few ideas worth sharing.

1. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is excellent places to serve as an emergency radio operator. Joining ARES provides one with many opportunities to practice emergency communications. They also have meetings and special events that provide training and practice.
2. In an emergency, we discourage self-deployment, but in non-emergency situations, it is a great idea, and a lot of fun, too. This is called going portable. Basically, you take whatever equipment you would need to set up in an emergency and try your equipment out. See how well your power source works. Check your radio and antenna's performance. You can go as far away from your station as you like, or just set up in the back yard. By practicing for a deployment, you can make a list of whatever equipment you need, including cables, to set up in a real emergency.
3. At the recent Atlanta Ham Jam meeting, an official from the American Radio Relay League made one of the most profound statements ever heard about amateur radio. He said, "An amateur radio license is a license to learn." No one in amateur radio knows everything, not even hams who have been licensed for fifty years or more. There is always something new to learn. That being said, here are some sources for new information:
  - i. Magazines. The American Radio Relay League publishes an excellent monthly magazine. It comes with your ARRL membership. (You do belong to the ARRL, don't you?) There are also several other amateur radio publications to choose from. You can find magazine articles about every aspect of amateur radio.
  - ii. Books. The ARRL is a source of numerous books, but there are other publishers who put out books of interest to amateur radio operators as well.
  - iii. Yahoo Groups. Most clubs have a Yahoo group or what is called a "reflector". Perusing them, you can often find interesting topics. GARS has a reflector, (groups.yahoo.com - Look for GARS.) There are also specialty groups as well. You might find one for a particular radio that you have or a group that specializes in a particular mode of operation. Check the Yahoo groups out.
  - iv. The Internet. YouTube is a great source of information. There are thousands of videos on just about any topic you are interested in. There are also regularly scheduled programs such as "Ham Nation" and "Amateur Logic" that are entertaining, as well as informative.
  - v. Clubs. Joining a local ham radio club like GARS is a good thing. Not all clubs are equal. Some are specialty clubs while others are general interest; their interests include everything amateur radio. Try out several clubs if you can. Find a club you like and join. Don't be afraid to go up and introduce yourself to others at their meetings and activities.

As amateur radio operators and emergency communicators, there is a wealth of information out there to help us improve our skills. Happy New Year to everyone and may amateur radio be rewarding to all of us.

73 de *David Harden*, KJ4CMY





# Keeping in Touch

## Keep in touch with the hams in your life and help prevent isolation

A couple of weeks ago, one of the “lions” of our amateur radio club, [Clay, W8JNZ, became a silent key](#). I won't go into his long list of accomplishments; you can read his obituary for that. What I will say is that he did a lot for our club, and its members, and for amateur radio.

For the last couple of years, he had stopped coming to our club meetings. I think that this was mostly because he stopped driving, but I never asked. Then, I heard that he'd moved to be with his family in VA. We weren't bosom buddies, but we were friends, and it saddened me when he disappeared.

Fortunately, Clay had family to be with. That's not always the case, though. The AARP reports that more than 8 million adults age 50 and older are affected by isolation. They define isolation as “feeling detached physically or psychologically, or being disconnected from support groups of family, friends and community.”



The AARP considers this to be such a big problem, they have started a program called Connect2Affect to make people aware of isolation in general and their own isolation in particular. The [Connect2Affect website](#) includes resources for learning more about isolation, evaluating how isolated you might be, how to connect with others if you're feeling isolated, and how to help others be less isolated.

It's easy to lose touch with people. We all live busy lives these days, and when someone drops off our radar, it's easy to forget them. But let's not let that happen to our ham radio brothers and sisters. Here's a few things that I'd suggest:



1. Make a list of club members that may not have been to a club meeting or activity recently or who have not checked in to the club's 2m net.
2. Reach out to them and ask them if there's any particular reason that they haven't been to a club meeting.
3. Find some way to get them involved again:
  - a. Make sure that they know when the next club meeting is scheduled and offer to drive them if they need a ride.
  - b. Invite him or her over to your shack to see your latest rig or homebrew project.
  - c. Invite him or her out to lunch sometime to talk about ham radio.

Ham radio is supposed to be all about communication. Let's keep the lines of communications open with the ham radio operators in our lives and prevent them from becoming isolated.

Source: <http://www.kb6nu.com/keep-touch-hams-life-help-prevent-isolation/>, <https://connect2affect.org>



# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only fifteen primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Ruth - KM4LAO	Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX
Bill - KK4AUA	David - KK4KAF	Kevin - KK4WOG
Chuck - KK4TKJ	Mike - KK4KHS	Donna - KM4FMW

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ*

GARS Net Manager



# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in December

**Kevin Jones (N4KWJ)  
James Kim (KN4IPH)  
Austin Paszkowski (KM4HIB)**

**New Members: 3**

**Total Members as of January 1, 2018  
296**

**Join GARS members for our  
weekly breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays  
  
at**

**Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

**([Directions](#))**

**The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in January:**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  
From All of Us at GARS**

---

**Donald Brant (N2VGU)  
Jolie Brown  
Terry Cantrell (W4WTC)  
Phillip Childs (KJ4VFO)  
Rick Cobb (N4XYY)  
Randy Collins (N4COR)  
Mike Cottrell (KJ4EIE)  
John Craig (KK4JXU)  
Mark Fenley (KM4DJO)  
Kevin Highsmith (KK4WOG)  
Ruth Jones (K4RHJ)  
Kevin McClure (KF4HFN)  
Stephen Morgan (KN4FZA)  
Yolanda Pence (KM4AAQ)  
Antonio Perry (KN4AXM)  
William Pettit (K4ENQ)  
Grant Porter (KG4SDR)  
Michael Stebnicki (KJ4PQZ)  
Joseph Trunk (AA8XR)  
Newton White (N4EWT)  
Ruth Willet (KM4LAO)  
Christopher Young (KX4CR)**

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ



## Editor's Corner

In last month's GARzette on Page 4, I wrote a short article on special event stations. I'd like to expand on that today.

Some other popular events:

- ♦ The annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Communications Test is an event (usually in May) where military stations and amateurs communicate while transmitting in their own band. It's your chance for a QSO with **WAR** in the Pentagon!
- ♦ The [13 Colonies](#) event, around the week of July 4, activates stations in all of the 13 original colonies. Some GARS members participate in these activations. Chasers can go for the "Clean Sweep" by contacting stations in all original 13 colonies, plus other stations, including **GB13COL** in England!

Special Event stations can have distinct calls. American hams can apply for use of a temporary "1 X 1" call for a special event station or DXpedition. These calls are assigned for a maximum of 15 days. One example is **W2D** and **W8D**, on the air from January 22 thru 31, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the R. L. Drake Company.



Some countries allow multiple numbers in special event calls, usually to indicate an anniversary of some kind. There is a wide variety of events that are celebrated. Here are some past and current examples:

- ♦ **DG500BIER** and **DL500BIER** were QRV in Germany during 2016 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Bavarian Purity Law, regulating beer production. Here is a poster image from **DG500BIER**'s QRZ.com website:
- ♦ Several stations, including **DR500MLE**, **DR1517LU**, **DC500LS** and **DL500ML** were QRV in Germany during 2017 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation initiated by Martin Luther.
- ♦ 2017 saw several stations commemorating the 150th anniversary of the confederation of Canada, including **XM1150CAN**.
- ♦ **DT23WOP** is active to celebrate the XXIII Olympic Winter Games held this year in PyeongChang, South Korea.
- ♦ Look for **DJ70WAE** throughout 2018, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Worked All Europe Award.























Some events are commemorated by allowing all amateurs in a country to use a variation of their calls. For example, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's reunification with China, Hong Kong licensed radio amateurs are allowed to use the special prefix **VR20** on a voluntary basis until June 2018.

Finally, GARS members occasionally run a special event station. One example is a station for the EAA when one of their vintage aircraft shows up at the Gwinnett County airport.




Speaking of Gwinnett County, did you know that 2018 is the 200th anniversary of its founding? We'll keep you posted regarding any GARS activities related to this event...

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS  
GARzette Editor

## GARS Officers and Committee Chairs

Mike Weathers President	ND4V	
Rick Cobb Vice President	N4XYY	
Leland Ford Secretary	K9SDR	
Sid Weaver Treasurer	N4NQ	
Paul Kelley Program Manager	W4KLY	
Karen Albritton Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Dorothy Jubon Public Information Officer	N2DLJ	
Ralph Pickwick Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Neal Gilchrist TechFest Chair	W4HNG	
Bill Eggers GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Bill Cherepy W4GR Trustee	WB4WTN	
Eddie Foust Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers WAS-Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Mitch Matteau Winter Field Day Chair	N0DIM	
Pam Meridy GA QSO Party Chair	WB1AKQ	
Kyle Albritton Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	

### DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	
David Adcock	KA4KKF	
Norm Schklar	WA4ZXV	

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville
Link remote receivers being added	

## DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Instead of a regular general meeting being held in December the club had its annual Christmas party. Starting at 8PM a short business meeting was conducted.

### General Business

John Davis, WB4QDX, was awarded Ham of the Year Award for 2017. He was presented with a trophy in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the areas of mentoring in digital and D-Star audio modes, instruction at HamCram events, and being a liaison to the county and repeater committee to secure new repeater sites for the club during this past year.

Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, was awarded a lifetime club membership for his years of contributions to GARS in the areas of scouting for meeting spaces and repeater locations, a member of the bylaws committee, a regular attendee of nearly all GARS activities, a volunteer examiner, and the GARS license trustee. Actually Bill's award was presented prior to it being confirmed by a vote of the executive committee since no executive committee meeting was held in December. It was voted on and passed unanimously by a voice vote of attendees of the party.

Vaden McDonald, NN4K, and Bill Eggers, WB2RIS, were awarded certificates of appreciation for their contribution to the November General Meeting program on digital modes.

73, *Leland*, K9SDR, Secretary



**L&M Mobility**  
Robert (Mike) Smith  
5191 La Paloma Dr.  
Lilburn, GA 30047  
Phone (404)-509-3104  
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## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

### From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

#### January 2018

- 1 [Straight Key Night](#)
- 6 [Kid's Day](#)
- 6-7 [RTTY Roundup](#)
- 17 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

#### February 2018

- 12-16 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 17-18 [International DX – CW](#)

#### March 2018

- 3-4 [International DX– Phone](#)

#### April 2018

- 15 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

#### June 2018

- 9-11 [June VHF](#)
- 16 [Kid's Day](#)
- 23-24 [Field Day](#)

#### July 2018

- 9-11 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

#### August 2018

- 4-5 [222 MHz & Up Distance Contest](#)
- 18-19 [10 GHz and Up – Round 1](#)
- 19 [Rookie Roundup - RTTY](#)

#### September 2018

- 8-10 [September VHF](#)
- 15-16 [10 GHz & Up—Round 2](#)
- 29-30 [EME - 2.3 GHz And Up](#)

#### October 2018

- 15-19 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 27-28 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

#### November 2018

- 24-25 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 3-5 [Nov. Sweepstakes – CW](#)
- 17-19 [Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone](#)
- 30 [160 Meter \(Day 1\)](#)

### For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### 01/13/2018 | [Georgia State ARES Convention & Meeting](#)

Location: Forsyth, GA  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Georgia ARES  
Website: <http://gaares.org/>

### 01/20/2018 | [GARS TechFest Convention](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA

Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://techfest.info>



### 02/09/2018 | [Florida State Convention \(Orlando HamCation\)](#)

Location: Orlando, FL  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

### 03/02/2018 | [Alabama State Convention \(BirmingHAMfest 2018\)](#)

Location: Irondale, AL  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://www.w4cue.com>

### 04/28/2018 | [Savannah Hamfest & Swapmeet](#)

Location: Savannah, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society  
Website: [http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page\\_id=731](http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=731)

### For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

Note: When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC

GARS Events Calendar for 2018		GARS Recurring Calendar
Dog Show Fundraisers Tech HamCrams TechFest ( <a href="http://www.techfest.info">www.techfest.info</a> ) Winter Field Day Georgia QSO Party North metro area Fox Hunt May Madness Memorial Day Parade ARC/KARC Hamfest Field Day General HamCram JOTA Maker Faire Stone Mt. Hamfest Christmas Party	February 1-4, August March, October January 20 January 27 & 28 April 14 & 15 April May (Not a Misprint!) May 28 June 2 June 23 & 24 July October October November December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly club meeting</li> <li>♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Training Workshop</li> <li>♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm: GARS Ham Exam Session Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast Golden Corral Restaurant 2155 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043</li> </ul>
<b>February GARS Speaker</b> <b>TBD</b> Check <a href="http://www.GARS.org">www.GARS.org</a> for updates		

#### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 31	1 	2	3	4	5	6 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
7	8 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	9 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting	10	11 	12	13 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
14 GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm Gwinnett Co. Fire Station #24	15 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	16 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 - 9:00 pm Training Workshop	17	18	19	20 Breakfast  <b>TechFest</b> 9 AM - 2 PM
21	22 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	23	24	25	26	27 Breakfast <b>Winter Field Day Day 1</b> Setup Starts 9:30 Event Starts 2 PM
28 <b>Winter Field Day Day 2 Ends 2 PM</b>	29 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	30 	31	February 1 Don't forget: Please help out with the DOG SHOW ...	February 2 February 1 - 4 2 shifts: 6 AM to 10 AM 10 AM to 2 PM	February 3 Sign up to help online at <a href="http://www.gars.org">http://www.gars.org</a>



## Metro Testing Sessions

*GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.*

### First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)  
VEC: WCARS  
Braselton Public Utility Building  
4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA  
Roger Gibson, WB4T  
(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560  
[w4rlg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)  
VEC: WCARS  
Hall County EOC  
470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.  
Perry Roper, KO4RD  
(770) 536-3056

### Second Saturday

10:00 AM  
Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center  
13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Ian Kahn, KM4IK  
E-mail: [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

### Second Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL  
8:30 a.m.  
GMC Community Ctr  
5325 Leon St.  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
(678) 467-3712

### Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI  
2 pm  
Fire Station #24  
Mall of Georgia Boulevard  
Buford, GA 30519  
Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

### Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI  
2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg  
66 McElroy Street  
Winder, GA 30680  
Steve Donellan, N5SMD  
(404) 520-0368  
E-mail: [n5smd@comcast.net](mailto:n5smd@comcast.net)

(cont. next column)

## Ham Exam Results

### December Results

We had a another excellent testing session on Sunday, December 10. All 10 of the candidates who tested passed their examinations as follows:

- ◆ One new Technician class
- ◆ Two new General class (passed Technician and General exams)
- ◆ Three upgrades to General class
- ◆ Four upgrades to Extra class.

Again, many thanks to the following VE's who made this test session possible:

- ◆ Frank Haynes, KV4SP
- ◆ Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE)
- ◆ Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC
- ◆ Nick Doemland, AB4CQ
- ◆ Russ Prevost, KN4CGO
- ◆ Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN
- ◆ Dave Bruse W4DTR (CVE)
- ◆ Yolanda Pence, KM4AAQ
- ◆ Robert Pence, KM4AAP

73,

*Don Bagby*, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)

GARS VE Team Leaders  
E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

GARS VE Website:  
<https://groups.io/g/GARS-VE-Team>

### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC  
7 pm @ United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  
(770) 942-6466

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech  
VanLeer Elec. Building  
Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.  
For more information go to  
[www.w4aql.com](http://www.w4aql.com) and click on "Test Sessions"

## Metro Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC  
Downtown Marietta  
Fire Station #1, Training Room  
112 Haynes Street  
Marietta, Georgia 30060  
Meeting begins at 7:00pm  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta  
Meeting is at 7:30pm  
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC  
Commerce Public Library  
1344 South Broad Street, Commerce  
Meeting is at 6:30pm  
Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

### Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00pm

### Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
Annistown Road Baptist Church  
Annistown Rd & Spain Rd  
Stone Mountain  
Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club  
Board Room of The Shepherd Center  
2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta  
at 10:00 AM

### Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League  
Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept  
Alpharetta Adult Activity Center  
13450 Cogburn Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30004  
meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to: <http://www.gars.org/>

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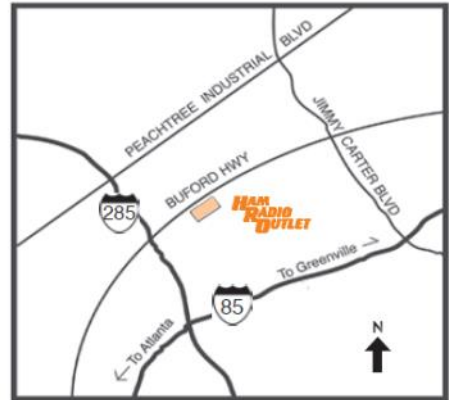


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